S-1

Probe Figure Howard Bares Trip to N.O.

(Special to The States-Item)

LOS ANGELES — Lawrence Howard Jr., a witness in District Attorney Jim Garrison's Kennedy assassination probe, told newsmen here last night he had been to New Orleans, talked with Garrison and found him "a very nice man."

Howard was subpenaed as a material witness by Garrison and successfully fought extradition. But he said over the weekend he was coming to New Orleans voluntarily to testify.

Newsmen in New Orleans did not see him at the courthouse yesterday. The DA's office was closed today for Mardi Gras.

Howard told L.A. reporters he used the check Garrison sent him for travel expenses. He did not say whether he would return to New Orleans for a formal grand jury appearance. The grand jury meets Thursday.

Howard said he expects Garrison to "issue a statement in the next few days clearing my name." He had not been accused of any wrongdoing.

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